Drought Prone Areas Programme. Desert Development Programme and Employment Generation Schemes, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Indira Awas Yojana, Flood Control Scheme, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas and Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers implemented by the Central Ministries/Departments, which have components of disaster mitigation, towards long-term rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities.

Doubling Country's Food Production

481. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has now emerged as the second largest producer of rice, wheat, groundnut, fruits and vegetables in the world;

(b) if so, what concrete steps Government have taken so far to ensure that India becomes world's number 1 producer and also able to double country's foodgrains production by 2007-2008;

(c) whether Government are providing twenty five per cent subsidy for construction/modernisation/expansion of cold storages also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) According to FAO's (Food and Agricultural Organisation's) yearbook 1997 on Production, India is the second largest producer of rice, wheat, groundnut and melons. However, her position is sixth in respect of potato.

(b) The level of production of agriculture crops in any country depends on a number of factors such as agro-climatic conditions, farm size, development and adoption of package of improved practices, availability of credit, managerial/entrepreneur skills of farmers, timely and optimal application of inputs etc. increase the production and productivity of rice, wheat and oilseeds such as groundnut the

Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat Based Cropping System approach and Oilseeds Production Programme. Under these programmes, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. In addition, field demonstration on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further, a central sector scheme on development of fruits and vegetables is being implemented. Under fruit scheme, assistance is being provided for establishment of nurseries and tissue culture units for distribution of quality planting material, area expansion, frontline demonstration, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers, disease forecasting units, horticulture mechanization. Under the scheme of Integrated Development of Vegetables, the emphasis is laid on production of planting material especially onion and potato, improvement of production and productivity, technology transfer, on farm post harvest handling and development of information system. As regards to doubling food production, under the National Agenda for Governance, the Government has set priorities for doubling food production in next ten years, adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrasturcture and more efficient use of resources. These strategies will go a long way to increase production and productivity levels in the country which in turn will help the country to improve its rank in the world.

(c) and (d) A scheme "Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Modernisation/Expansion of Cold Storage and Storage for Horticulture Produce" is being operated through National Horticulture Board to promote construction of cold storage so as to prevent massive post-hervest losses of horticulture produce. Some of the salient features of the scheme are as follows:

(i) 25% back-ended capital investment subsidy from National Horticulture Board shall be routed through NABARD/NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation) for opening

borrower-wise subsidy reserve fund account by lending commercial/ cooperative banks.

(ii) The subsidy is restricted to Rs. 60 lakhs for north-eastern States and Rs. 50 lakhs for other States.

(iii) The cost of 5000 MT capacity new cold storage and expansion of existing capacity should not exceed Rs. 2.0 crores @ Rs. 4000/- per tonne for modernisation and rehabilitation @ Rs. 1000/-per tonne and for storage like onion @ Rs. 2000/- per tonne capacity created/to be created.

(iv) Promoter's contribution is to be 25%

(v) 50% term loan by Commercial/cooperative banks at PLR+1% through NABARD refinance.

Scheme to Increase cash crop production

482. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any separate scheme to increase the production of cash crops in the various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the funds would be provided to each State under this scheme during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir, There is proposal to formulate any separate scheme to increase production of cash crops like cotton, sugarcane, jute/Mesta and tobacco as the Government of India is already implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on these crops in the country except for tobacco.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.